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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

Vol. 43 No. 81 Pages: 6 Rs. 2.00
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MYSURU Friday 15th May 2020
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Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
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SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

Mysuru COVID-free

All 90 positive cases cured

Mysuru, May 15 (BCT)- On March 21, the first COVID-19 positive case was reported in Mysuru and subsequently, the cases grew up to 90 putting up an unsurmountable challenge to the District Administration.

Today, May 15, 56 days later, all the 90 patients have been cured of the disease. The last two patients who were being treated at the designated COVID-19 Hospital have been released today. Medical Education Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar has tweeted the same at 3.21 pm.

In his tweet, Dr. Sudhakar said, "I am happy to inform that all the 90 patients who were admitted to COVID Hospital (Mysore District Hospital) have been cured of the disease and have been discharged. All this has been possible due to the efforts of doctors, healthcare workers and Corona Warriors. We can defeat Coronavirus if people co-operate with the Government."

With this, there are no active cases in Mysuru and the city has reported 100 percent recovery rate. As per the daily media briefing by Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar, till late last evening, only two positive patients remained in the COVID Hospital with 88 persons cured and discharged. In all, 5,332 persons were observed in Mysuru district till date and 4,762 persons completed 14-day isolation.

At present, 568 persons have been put under institutional quarantine and all of them are inter-State travellers who came to Mysuru over the last week. 5,635 samples have been tested and 5,545 have been found negative.

In all, 90 cumulative positive cases were reported and today, all of them have been discharged. One person out of them (P-273), who was discharged from COVID Hospital and admitted to a private hospital, passed away yesterday and the death cannot be termed as a COVID death as the patient had other co-morbidities.

It may be recalled here that on Apr. 22, Dr. Sudhakar, who was in Mysuru had expressed confidence that that Mysuru will become a Coronavirus-free district soon. Strictly following lockdown regulations and maintaining social distance was vital for stopping the spread of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic, he had stated.

Curbs relaxed in Nanjangud Cluster Containment Zone

Mysuru, May 15 (BCT)- The Temple Town of Nanjangud was till now treated as one unit or a Cluster Containment Zone and was put under complete lock-down as per the containment protocol listed under COVID-19 regulations and Disaster Management Act 2005.

Today, some of the restrictions have been lifted by Mysuru DC Abhiram G. Sankar where he has permitted certain activities as no fresh positive cases were reported from the cluster area. The Cluster Containment Zone was declared on Mar. 29 following one employee of Nanjangud-based Jubilant Generics tested positive for the killer Coronavirus. As there were chances of the positive person spreading the disease to other employees of the factory, the cluster rules were enforced. Moreover, there were over 1,000 employees in the Pharma Company and a majority of them lived in and around Nanjangud.

The declaration of Cluster Containment Zone with complete lockdown and quarantining of all the Pharma Company employees proved a success to the District Administration as whoever tested positive — over 73 were later tested positive — had already been quarantined and the dangerous community spread phase was successfully prevented. To a major extent, the Coronavirus curve has been flattened. As such, restrictions have been relaxed a bit today.

Industries can function: However, the relaxations will apply to only those living in Nanjangud town or adjoining areas or layouts but will not apply to those living in Containment Zones. As per the DC's order, from today permitted activities can be carried out and restricted movement of vehicles with only one person on a two-wheeler with no pillion and only two persons including the driver in a four-wheeler.

All industries operating from Karnataka Industrial Development Board (KIADB) Industrial Area have been permitted to open and all industries located in the rural areas or hinterland of Nanjangud can begin operations.

Construction activities permitted: All construction activities have been permitted in and around Nanjangud town — town and rural units — and builders and contractors can begin construction operations with the available workforce from Nanjangud town.

(See ZONE on page 6)

State Cabinet revs up Real Estate Sector

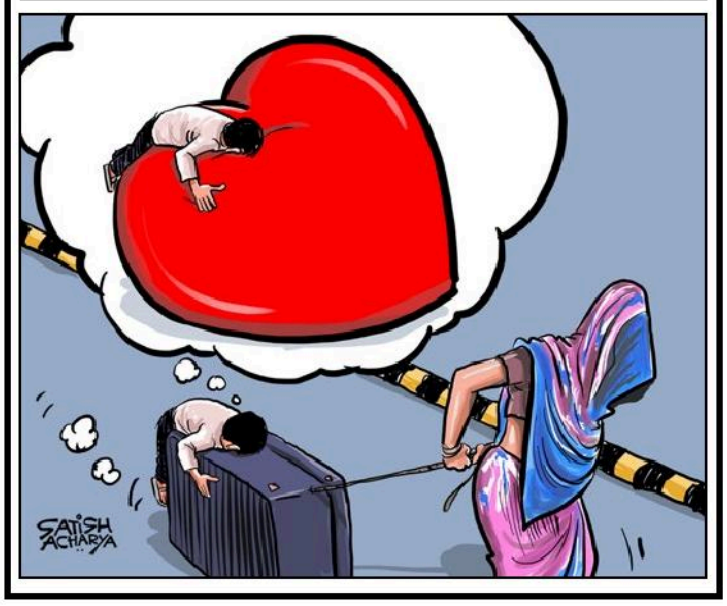
Approves amendment to Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act to develop Layouts in phases

Mysuru, May 15 (KMS,RK&DM)- In a move aimed at revving up the Real Estate Sector in State, the Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday passed an amendment to Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act to grant approval of development of Layouts in different phases.

Earlier, it was mandatory for developers to complete all infrastructure and amenities in the entire Layout before releasing sites. But developers can now break up the entire Layout into three blocks of 40 per cent, 30 per cent and 30 per cent area, and complete construction of all amenities in the first block before handing over sites, and then complete the rest in the same manner.

(See REAL ESTATE on page 6)

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya



5,800-strong team conducts door-to-door health survey

Data fed into 'Health Watch' mobile app to create database for future to prevent pandemics

Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Zone 4 Assistant Commissioner Priyadarshini imparting training to Revenue Officers and others at her office in Yadavagiri on Wednesday on data collection and uploading the same on 'Health Watch' mobile app.

Government employees deployed as health surveyors collecting data by going door-to-door in city.

Mysuru, May 15 (MTY&BCT)- The Mysuru District Administration has started a massive door-to-door survey to gather data on people with Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) and to check on the health status of patients with existing conditions such as non-communicable diseases, TB and AIDS and pregnant women. The exercise is being done for early detection of COVID-19 cases.

The data collected will be fed into the 'Health Watch' mobile app. Health surveyors can upload the details they collect directly through their smartphones or they can enter the data on the mobile phones of Booth-Level Officers (BLO) or Revenue Department officials deployed in the survey.

The door-to-door survey has been launched at all the 2,687 election booth and two surveyors have been deputed to each booth. The BLO will be assisted by a teacher in each booth and the data is collected and uploaded in a prescribed COVID-19 format and later the data is uploaded on 'Health Watch'.

Creating a strong database

Teachers working in Government and aided schools, ASHA, Anganwadi workers, Revenue and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department employees and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) have been roped in to conduct the universal survey of all families across the district to identify individuals with health conditions. The survey is to collect all the details and help in controlling the COVID-19 spread. It would also provide a strong database which the District Administration can keep as a reference in the future.

The surveying team would collect the details of the house occupants including their age, dependants and their phone numbers. They will ask if there are anybody suffering from fever or any other health issues, anybody in the house who has returned from abroad recently and also if there is anyone who has come recently from other parts of the State or country too.

Focus on senior citizens

Special focus will be on to identify people above 60 years of age and age-related ailments like diabetes, blood pressure, respiratory illness. The survey team will also collect the details of the dependants of senior citizens, their addresses and contact details.

The reason behind deploying BLOs who are trained to update electoral rolls is to guarantee that every household mentioned in the electoral rolls is visited and contact details of the occupant of the house is entered in the register.

Simultaneously, ASHAs and ANMs along with teachers have been deployed to see the health condition of people, especially the high-risk category patients with underlying illnesses. On completion of the BLOs' survey, patients with ILI and SARI will be taken to fever clinics and they will be tested for COVID-19, if required, officials said.

Efficiently trained

The training for the health survey to detect people with ILI, SARI and co-morbid conditions have been provided at the Zonal Offices of Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) and the surveyors have been trained to upload the data into 'Health Watch' app.

There are over 5,800 health surveyors in the 11 Assembly Constituencies of Mysuru District and the survey has been set in motion in all the election booths. In Krishnaraja Constituency, there are 223 booths, 213 in Chamaraja, 220 in Narasimharaja, 310 in Chamundeshwari, 257 in Varuna, 218 in T. Narasipur, 225 in Periyapatna Assembly segment, 248 in K.R. Nagar, 263 in Hunsur, 272 booths in H.D. Kote and 238 in Nanjangud Constituency taking the total to 2,687 booths.

"We are doing this so that we have a ready register of people with illness and symptoms and the Government can constantly check on their health," officials said.

Pourakarmikas blowing whistles to collect garbage can contract virus

AIUTUC urges MCC to suggest alternative, submits memorandum

Mysuru, May 15 (PM&KS)- There are concerns about the safety of the health of Pourakarmikas, who blow whistles to make residents know that they have arrived to collect garbage and blowing whistles at the time of COVID pandemic could prove dangerous to Pourakarmikas.

Considering the safety of the health of Pourakarmikas, All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC), District Committee, has submitted a memorandum to the Mayor and the MCC Commissioner, seeking an alternate way to blowing whistles.

In the memorandum, AIUTUC has stated that the Pourakarmikas, who collect garbage from every house use the same hands to hold whistles to blow them which would have a bad impact on their heath as the virus could enter their body through their mouth.

Pointing out that the services of Pourakarmikas was very important, AIUTUC has stated that when modern technology is in usage now, an alternate way to blowing whistles could be used.

Meanwhile, Pourakarmika leader N. Mara said that earlier, Pourakarmikas used to ring the bell that were tied to their pushcarts upon their arrival to various areas to collect garbage and added that as the sound of the bell could not be heard, they began to blow whistles.

Now, with the outbreak of COVID pandemic, Pourakarmikas blowing whistles is said to be dangerous, Mara said and suggested that the earlier facility of ringing bells could be used now. He said that there are a few garbage collection vehicles that are fitted with public address system which could be extended to all garbage collection vehicles and added that the civic body should take the issue seriously.

AIUTUC District President V. Yashodhar, District Secretary Chandrashekae Meti, Dist. Advisor of Karnataka State Samyukta ASHA Workers Union P.S. Sandhya & others were present.

VOICE OF THE READER

Decreasing deposit rates, a concern for seniors

Sir,

The interest rates on deposits and savings accounts are moving in a downward trend due to various financial and economic reasons. If the trend continues, the day may not be too far, for banks and financial institutions to start charging their customers for safe-keeping the money in these accounts, instead of paying the interest, as they incur expenditure to handle the accounts like manpower, space, printing various documents related to these accounts, etc.

We need not be surprised, if financial institutions and banks do this in the future by adopting a negative interest rate policy!

However, it may become a deterrent for senior citizens, who solely depend on interest earned on their deposits for their living. In the current situation, such people may need to start looking for other means of earning using their skills and knowledge gained during their career.

— Dr. S.V.N. Vijayendra
Roopanagar
10.5.2020

Power bills issued as per consumption, clarifies CESC

- **Complaints of incorrect billing may be registered with Helpline No. 1912 or at respective Sub-division Offices**
- **No disconnection of electricity connections till June 2020**

Mysuru, May 15 (RK&DM)- Following several complaints that Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) has been issuing excess or beyond the average power bills to domestic consumers, the State-run power company has clarified that it has issued bills only for the actual quantity of power consumption along with fixed charges.

In a press release, CESC Managing Director said that meter reading has not been done in March and April due to COVID-19 lockdown and following a Government Order, bills were issued based on the average consumption in the three preceding months of lockdown.

Due to the lockdown regulations, people are forced to stay indoors and naturally, power consumption has risen because of continuous use of various electrical appliances such as fans, coolers, refrigerators etc., he said. The officer added that due to work from home option provided by IT-BT companies that demand use of computers, which draw a considerable quantity of power. As such, it is but natural that power consumption rises by nearly 25 to 40 percent above the normal usage, he said.

Explaining the billing procedure, the MD said that power bills are raised as per unit slabs with varying charges. Maintaining that bills are issued based only on actual power consumption and there can be no excess billing, the press release said that complaints may be registered with Helpline No. 1912 in case of incorrect meter reading or wrong calculation of power unit slabs.

After verifying complaints, CESC will issue revised bills only if errors are found. Also, there may be chances that the pending bills are inadvertently added to the present one even if paid earlier online. However, consumers can call Helpline No.1912 or visit their respective Sub-division Office for rectification of any errors found in the bill.

Consumers can pay bills only after getting their doubts clarified regarding excess billing. Also, following a Government Order, CESC will not disconnect power supply to consumers even in case of default on payment of bills due till June 2020, the release said.

Boy donates piggy collection to PM CARES Fund

Prathik, an 8th standard student of JSS Public School, J.P. Nagar, donated Rs.1,500, saved from his pocket money (piggy box), to MLA S.A. Ramdas towards PM CARES Fund during the MLA's visit to Akkammani Hospital recently.

After Akshaya Tritiya washout, hope glimmers for city jewellers

But it is a long way for gold merchants to bring customers back to showrooms

Tholasi Jewellers on Ashoka Road and Bhima Jewellers on Devaraj Urs Road have taken all safety precautions while attending to customers.

Mysuru, May 15 (RK&BCT)- Over 750 jewellery shops and showrooms began business yesterday following easing of restrictions in Mysuru city. Social distancing measures have been put in place in every retail establishment in order to prevent virus spread.

Out of business since the last 51 days as jewellery is a non-essential commodity, this year has proved to be the most difficult and financially stressful period for jewellers. Even Akshaya Tritiya, which fell this year in the last week of April was a lost opportunity for jewellers because of the nationwide lockdown.

Jewellery sales came to a halt with factories closed, resulting in a massive loss for jewellery manufacturers and retailers, said C.S. Amarnath, President of Mysuru Shroff Association.

"We had tried selling jewellery online, but could not succeed. Last Akshaya Tritiya was a washout without even a single online booking. We also missed major business that happens in the marriage season due to the lockdown," he added.

Though the Government has given the green signal to resume limited economic activities now, the relaxation will hardly help bring back the sound of hammer in jewellery workshops. "It will be difficult for us to reopen workshops as there is no demand at all now. Adding to this, a majority of artisans and skilled workers have left for their native places. Even many customers do not have the buying power now due to lockdown and buying gold jewellery won't be a priority for many people. We hope the business will pick up in the coming weeks. Many jewellery showrooms are calling up their regular customers asking them to visit the stores and continue the goodwill," Amarnath said.

Pawn-broker shops

The case of pawn-broking shops in Mysuru is also pathetic. There are over 600 pawn-broker outlets in Mysuru and all of them opened yesterday after nearly two months. "There was no business during lockdown and there were no sales. We are hit badly and we are expecting a relief package from the Government," said Chandra Singh, President of Mysuru Pawn Brokers Association.

A pawn-broker shop in Mandi Mohalla maintains social distance.

Financial aid to professional artistes, writers

Kannada and Culture Department receives 960 applications in Mysuru district; 18,000 from across the State

Mysuru, May 15 (SBD&DM)- Professional artistes and writers, who are in a crisis due to the COVID-19 lockdown, are being provided financial aid by the Government.

The pandemic has brought untold misery to all sections of the society and so also to thousands of artistes and writers who are now struggling for their livelihood. Taking note of the plight of artistes, the Kannada and Culture Department has come to their rescue by extending them a financial aid of Rs.2,000 each.

Even before the Government could announce the Rs.1,610 crore package for the working class in the unorganised sector, the Kannada and Culture Department began the process of identifying professional theatre artistes and writers through the Department officials, Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Nataka Academy and other bodies.

Later, the Department invited applications from professional artistes who are not in Government service nor a beneficiary of Pension schemes. The Department had asked the applicants not to give any false or misleading information and warned of action under the National Disaster Management Act if the applicants had wilfully provided wrong information.

The Department has completed the scrutiny of applications received till March end and has set aside Rs.4 crore for extending financial aid, with a provision for increasing the earmarked amount if found necessary.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Kannada & Culture Assistant Director H. Channappa said that the Department had received 960 applications in the district and a list of 721 beneficiary artistes has been finalised. This apart, the Shilpakala Academy too has sent about 400 applications. Likewise other Academies too are sending applications and every beneficiary artiste will get Rs.2,000 as financial aid after the scrutiny of all applications, he said.

Meanwhile, Kannada & Culture Minister C.T. Ravi said that the Department had resolved to provide Rs.2,000 financial package to every professional artiste and writer. The Department, after cancelling the official celebration of Jayantis due to lockdown, is using this money for providing aid to those in financial difficulties. The Dept. has received nearly 18,000 applications from across the State, the scrutiny of which is going on. So far, about 4,000 applicants found eligible have been provided Rs.2,000 aid, he said and added that the artistes have demanded Rs. 5,000, which matter has been brought to the notice of the CM.

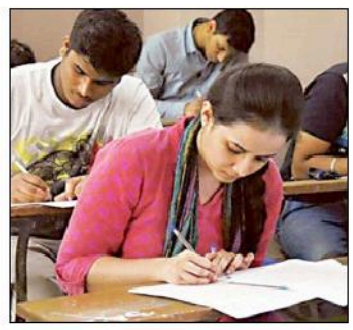
'Guddali Puja' performed for seating facility at Mysore University Hockey Grounds

Mysuru, May 15- Chamaraja MLA L. Nagendra has granted Rs.5 lakh towards the 3-step concrete seating facility at the East side of the University Hockey Grounds and the *Guddali Puja* for the same was performed yesterday. This follows a memorandum submitted by Hockey Mysore during the Invitation Cup State-level Hockey Tournament conducted by Hockey Mysore at the Mysore University Hockey Grounds last year, requesting the MLA to sanction the much-needed seating facility for spectators.

MLA L. Nagendra, Mysore University VC Prof. G. Hemantha Kumar, Mysore University Department of Physical Education Director (in-Charge) P. Krishnaiah, Ward 40 Corporator Shivkumar, BJP leader Manoj, Hockey Mysore President K.B. Dilip, Vice-President K.N. Muddaiah, Treasurer M. Ponnappa, Secretary C.T. Satish and Committee Members Jaya, Nachappa, Nanditha and Appachu were present during the simple ceremony yesterday. Speaking on the occasion, Nagendra promised to fund another Rs. 5 lakh towards additional 3-step concrete seating facility on one length of the hockey field.

"Most of the members of Hockey Mysore have played in this same ground 4 to 5 decades ago and have gone on to represent the State and National teams. As a novelty to give back to the ground, we sought permission from the University and had requested our MLA to fund this facility," stated a press release from Secretary C.T. Satish.

CET on July 30, 31



Bengaluru, May 15- The Common Entrance Test (CET)-2020 for admission (Under-Graduate) to professional courses such as Engineering, Pharmacy, Farm Sciences, Architecture etc. (except Medical and Dental courses) in Karnataka will be conducted on July 30 and 31 by Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA). The CET, which was earlier scheduled to take place on April 23 and 24, was postponed due to the nationwide COVID-19 lockdown.

Addressing a press meet here on Wednesday, Deputy Chief Minister Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan, who is also the Higher Education Minister, said that the CET will be conducted on July 30 and 31 by maintaining social distancing at all the exam centres across the State.

Stating that the pending English paper exam of second PUC will be held shortly, he said that the Government's 'Get CET go' online coaching classes for CET and NEET exam has been a hit among students. Pointing out that 1.69 lakh students have benefitted from this online coaching, he said that Karnataka is the first State to launch such online coaching classes for professional courses entrance exam.

Referring to complaints of power problems in rural areas which has been a disadvantage for rural students, he said that taking note of internet problems, offline classes too have been introduced.

Maintaining that the Government will take all precautionary and safety measures corresponding to COVID19-lockdown regulations during the conduct of CET and the students can appear for the exam without any concerns, he said that the Government will take necessary measures to put an end to unethical practices such as Seat blocking and Seat surrender.

Referring to the demand by Engineering Colleges seeking an annual fee hike, the Minister said that with the Coronavirus pandemic causing havoc, the Government will take a scientific view of the fee hike demand, considering that the admissions have become a bigger issue now due to pandemic.

CET time-table

July 30: Biology (10.30 am to 11.50 am) and Mathematics (2.30 pm to 3.50 pm)

July 31: Physics (10.30 am to 11.50 am) and Chemistry (2.30 pm to 3.50pm)

Aug.1: Kannada language test only in Bengaluru for Horanadu and Gadinadu Kannadigas (11.30 am to 12.30 pm).

Students can visit KEA *website: http://kea.kar.nic.in for more details.*

FIFA announces new date for 2020 U-17 Women's World Cup

The marquee event to kick-off from Feb.17, 2021 in India

New Delhi, May 15- The 2020 edition of the U-17 women's World Cup hosted by India will kick-off from Feb.17, 2021, the International Federation of Association Football – FIFA - has confirmed. The junior women's World Cup was earlier scheduled to take place in November this year but the marquee event has been postponed to next year due to ongoing Coronavirus crisis. The entire 2020 sporting calendar has been in shambles ever since the Coronavirus outbreak was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in March this year.

From the 2020 Tokyo Olympics to the European Football Championships (UEFA Euro), every major sporting spectacle has been either cancelled or postponed to next year in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic that has brought the entire world to a standstill. The postponement of the U-17 World Cup hosted by India was confirmed on Tuesday by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Local Organising Committee (LOC) for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup.

AIFF, LOC confirm new dates for FIFA U-17 Women's WC in India

The junior women's World Cup was earlier scheduled for a start from Nov.2-21 across five venues in India. India will now host the 2020 edition from Feb.17 till Mar.7, 2021. "Following this announcement by FIFA, the AIFF and LOC are pleased with the confirmation of the new dates for FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2020, which will now be held between 17th February and 7th March 2021," the LOC said in a statement.

"The dates were confirmed after taking into account the time needed to complete the UEFA, CONCACAF, CAF, OFC, and CONMEBOL qualification tournaments as well as the best possible conditions in the country to host a successful FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup," the LOC added.

The U-17 World Cup will be played across five cities — Navi Mumbai, Guwahati, Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Bhubaneswar next year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the women's Under-20 World Cup hosted by Costa Rica and Panama in August-September has been also rescheduled for January 20-February 6, 2021.

Wine merchants want instalment facility to pay liquor licence renewal fee

Mysuru, May 15 (PM&DM)- Following loss of business due to COVID-19 lockdown, Federation of Wine Merchants Association of Karnataka has appealed to the State Government to allow instalment facility to pay liquor licence renewal fee.

Addressing a press conference at 'True Spirits' store in Jayalakshmipuram in city yesterday, Mysuru and Chamarajanagar District Liquor Merchants Association President S. Guruswamy said that wine merchants have suffered financial losses due to the shutting down of liquor shops following the lockdown.

As such, a memorandum has been submitted to Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa seeking fulfilment of their various demands, which chiefly included allowing four instalment facility for payment of liquor licence renewal fee across all classifications.

Pointing out that Maharashtra has begun renewal of licence by facilitating three instalment payments, Guruswamy said that the Karnataka Government should permit for payment in four instalments. The other demands included waiver of building tax and deferment of 50 percent of power bills and property tax for six months, he noted.

Continuing, he said that the Govt. while permitting opening of CL-4 (clubs), CL-7 (hotels) and CL-9 (bars and restaurants) licence outlets, has asked them to clear only the existing stocks by May 17. But these outlets have to shut down once again once the stocks are exhausted. As such, the Chief Minister has been appealed to permit these licence holders too to sell liquor at MRP rates just as CL-2 licence holders (wine shops).

Blood donation marks KPCC President's birthday

Taking into account the shortage of blood faced at Blood Banks due to Coronavirus pandemic, a blood donation camp was organised at Suyog Hospital in Ramakrishnanagar in city as part of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) President D.K. Shivakumar's 58th birthday celebrations today, under the joint aegis of Sri D.K. Shivakumar Abhimani Balaga, Mysuru and K.R. Hospital. MLA Anil Chikkamadu, MLC R. Dharmasena, District Congress President Dr. B.J. Vijay Kumar, Balaga President Srinath Babu, Suyog Hospital Founder Dr. S.P. Yoganna, Dr. Manjunath, former Mayors Dakshinamurthy, T.B. Chikkanna and Pushpalatha Chikkanna and others were present.

Senior citizen, who had recovered from COVID-19, dies of heart attack

Mysuru, May 15 (SBD&KS)- A 72-year-old man (P-273), who had recovered from COVID-19, passed away on Thursday following a heart attack.

The deceased, a resident of Nazarbad, though had recovered from COVID-19, was suffering from age related ailments and was admitted to a private hospital where he breathed his last.

Discharged on Apr. 28

The man, following illness had been to a private hospital and as he had the symptoms of COVID-19, he was quarantined and was subjected to COVID test. As the test results showed positive, he was considered as 'P-273' SARI (Severe Acute Respiratory Illness) patient and was being treated.

P-273, who was admitted in a serious condition on Apr. 14 was put on ventilator and following the suggestion from the doctors at the Critical Care Unit, COVID Hospital doctors provided High Flow Oxygen therapy following which he (P-273) recovered completely in 14 days and was discharged from the hospital on Apr. 28.

District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. Venkatesh said that even after being discharged from the hospital, P-273 was put under home quarantine and COVID tests were also conducted four times. All the four test reports turned negative for COVID-19, he added besides stating that general health check-up was being conducted once in two days.

P-273, who was free from COVID-19, was suffering from low blood pressure, respiratory problems and age related ailments. As the COVID tests had turned negative, he was admitted to a private hospital and was being treated where he passed away following a heart attack on Thursday night.

Kalyan Mantap owners urged to return advance money

Mysuru, May 15 (RKB&DM)- Karnataka Praja Party has urged Marriage Hall (Kalyan Mantap) owners to return the advance money paid by people who had booked the Halls in advance for marriages and other functions, as they are not taking place now due to the COVID lockdown.

Addressing a press meet through Facebook live recently, the party leader and Advocate B.Shivanna maintained that marriage hall owners have to return the money received by them as advance from people who have booked the halls functions.

Alleging that some owners were refusing to return the advance money citing their own reasons, Shivanna said that this attitude of the owners has forced the people to file complaints at Police Stations.

Amidst all this, the Kalyan Mantap Owners Association has written a letter to the Government saying that they can return only 50 percent of the received money to customers. But the Government must not pay heed to their appeal and instead direct them to return the money in full to customers, he said and warned of staging a protest if advance money is not returned in full.

Sleeping man bludgeoned to death at Gandhinagar

Mysuru, May 15 (RK&KS)- A 35-year-old man has been bludgeoned to death on May 12 night at Gandhinagar in city.

The deceased has been identified as Suresh. A native of Doddenahalli village in T.Narasipur taluk, Suresh was staying alone at Gandhinagar as he was orphaned and was consuming food given by the public.

Suresh was found murdered by miscreants when he was sleeping on the footpath opposite to a park. Miscreants had used a boulder to smash his head.

N.R. Inspector Shekar and staff, who rushed to the spot, conducted mahazar, shifted the body to MMC&RI mortuary, where post-mortem was conducted and the body was handed over to the deceased's relatives.

N.R. Police, who have registered a case of murder, are investigating.

Commits suicide

Mysuru, May 15 (YDS&KS)- A 56-year-old man committed suicide by hanging self at his house in Kumbarakoppal here on Wednesday.

The deceased has been identified as Manju. He committed suicide when his wife and two children left for work on Wednesday morning. The reason for Manju to take the extreme step is yet to be known.

Metagalli Police, who have registered a case, are investigating.

Bengaluru's suave former mafia don Muthappa Rai dies of cancer

Bengaluru, May 15 (Agencies)- Former underworld don Muthappa Rai (68), who had turned a social activist in the recent years, passed away in the wee hours of today at Manipal Hospital in Bengaluru. He was suffering from cancer and was hospitalised for the past few days.

He had recently held a press conference where he talked about his ill health and described himself as "a dying man."

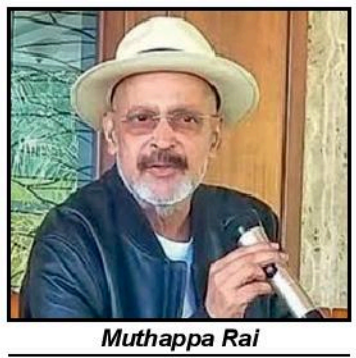
He leaves behind his wife Anuradha, sons Rickey and Rocky and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were held at his farm house in Bidadi, according to sources. Due to restrictions imposed to curtail the spread of COVID-19, only his family members participated.

Rai had presided over underworld in Mangaluru and Bengaluru for over 30 years and he was sophisticated, educated and charming. Unlike his predecessors M.P. Jairaj and Kothwal Ramachandra, Rai was from a good family background near Mangaluru.

A commerce graduate, he had started his career as an officer at Public Sector Undertaking Vijaya Bank and was a shy man. In the late 1980s, Rai came in contact with Bengaluru's underworld and became an overnight sensation after he bumped off the then don of Bengaluru, MP Jairaj, in broad daylight in 1990. That murder elevated him to the "post" of a mafia boss and he never looked back.

Surviving two serious attempts on his life, Rai managed to consolidate his hold over the land mafia of Bengaluru which was witnessing a huge boom in real estate post-economic liberalisation of 1991. There was also an attempt on his life at a city court in Bengaluru, when he was brought there for a routine appearance. Five bullets hit him, but he survived.

In 1994, during Karnataka Assembly elections, a Youth Congress leader Jayanth Rai was shot dead at his office in Puttur. That murder shook the State, which was not known for political killings. He was Muthappa Rai's right-hand man. That incident shook Rai and he moved all his activities to Bengaluru after that.



Muthappa Rai

Rai fled to Dubai in 1996. Though he was then helped by Dawood Ibrahim, he slowly gravitated towards the "Hindu faction" and reportedly helped Indian security agencies fight Dawood Ibrahim's faction, intelligence sources said.

Muthappa Rai was engaged in a pitched battle with another mafia man Sridhar in the 1990s in Bengaluru. There was an attempt on Sridhar's life, in which his driver got killed. A "reformed" Sridhar now runs a Kannada tabloid "Agni" and is in the film-making business.

He was arrested and extradited to Bengaluru by Dubai authorities in 2002 where he stood trial for a total of eight cases including the murder of builder Subbaraju in 2001. However, he was eventually acquitted of all charges for want of evidence.

In 2008, Muthappa announced he was turning a new leaf and started Kannada organisation "Jaya Karnataka". Living in a heavily guarded palatial house in Bidadi, Muthappa Rai described himself as a businessman involved in the real estate sector. He was elected Chairperson of Karnataka Athletics Association in 2018.

There has been no case against him alleging any criminal activity since he returned to India extradited from Dubai in 2002. Though there were reports of his keenness to enter the political fray, it never materialised. Rai used to claim that he had helped India's external espionage agency Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW) in Afghanistan and he was given safe passage back home because of that.

Man goes missing from city

Mysuru, May 15 (KS)- A 32-year-old man, who left his house on Feb. 16, has since gone missing.

The missing man is identified as Ravichandra, residing in Yelwal Police limits.

Those having any information about the missing person may contact Yelwal Police Station on Ph: 0821-2402222 or call District Police Control Room on Ph: 0821-2444800, according to a press release.

State Cabinet revs up Real Estate Sector

(Continued from page 1)

The earlier rule disallowed private developers from selling the sites till the work on providing amenities as per the approved plan is completed. Urban development authorities across the State, including the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), used to release 40 per cent of the sites soon after the Layout plan is approved and the remaining 60 per cent in two instalments of 30 per cent each depending on the progress of work. But people who purchased sites in the Private Layouts, were unable to build houses due to the absence of basic amenities such as road, electricity, drinking water, underground drainage and roadside drains. Now the rule has been made away with the amendment to Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act.

Long-standing demand

Welcoming the Government move, President of Jnanaganga Housing Co-operative Society H.V. Rajeev today told 'Star of Mysore' that the amendment was a long-standing demand of most Housing Co-operative Societies. "It is a boon especially for small builders as they can concentrate on completing all civic amenities in one block after collecting money in part from site-seekers and move on to the next block," he said.

Observing that the Act, before amendment, enabled big builders who have vast resources to complete projects in full and sell sites and plots at fancy rates, Rajeev said that it was difficult for the common man to get sites at affordable prices.

Another developer too welcomed the Government's decision as a good move at a time when the Real Estate Sector is facing a gloomy picture in the face of COVID lockdown. "The construction industry plays a vital role in the economy providing jobs to crores of masons, plumbers, electricians, bar benders, carpenters and a host of other construction workers," he said.

Only beneficial to developers

Former MUDA Chairman H.N. Vijay expressed some reservations about the benefits that the site buyer will gain from it. "The amendment is only beneficial to developers and Housing Societies. Developers now need not invest money for wholesome development of Layouts and instead develop in phases after collecting money from buyers. This will save them from investing huge sums of money in one go," he said.

"But at the same time, the amendment can be disadvantageous for buyers as they will be inconvenienced if the developer fails to complete civic amenities in full, for which they have already paid," he observed.

Srikanth Das, Proprietor of Ess and Ess Infrastructure, too welcomed the amendment saying it is a boon to both developers and site buyers. He maintained that the amendment will have a three way benefits -- firstly, site-seekers getting sites quickly; secondly, developers getting the much needed time and money to complete stalled Projects and Layouts and thirdly, Government gets more revenue by way of stamp duty with site registration.

Disruption in drinking water supply tomorrow

Mysuru, May 15 (KS)- Due to emergency works taken up at Belagola and Hongalli Pumping Stations, supply of drinking water will be disrupted tomorrow from 10 am to 5 pm tomorrow in MCC Wards 1 to 6, 20, 23, 38, 42 to 45, Hebbal, Kumbarakoppal, Manchegowdanakoppal, K.G. Koppal, Lokanayaka Nagar, Brindavan Layout, Vontikoppal, Paduvarahalli, Vinayakanagar, Mandi Mohalla, Lashkar Mohalla, Sharadadevi Nagar, Saraswathipuram, Bogadi, Vijayanagar 1st, 2nd and 3rd Stages, Gokulam 1st, 2nd and 3rd Stages, RMP, BEML, Yadavagiri, Bannimantap, ABC Layout, Eeranagere, Siddiquenagar, Shivarateeshwara Nagar, Tilaknagar, Badamakhan, Haleemnagar, parts of Devaraja and N.R. Mohalla, Nazarbad, Vidyaranyapuram, Krishnamurthypuram, Janathanagar, KHB Colony, Hootagalli and other places, according to a press release.

One arrested

for travelling in car with fake name board; released on Station Bail

Mysuru, May 15 (RK&KS)- A man, who had installed a fake name board and symbol of an organisation to his car and moving around in city, was arrested by Udayagiri Police yesterday.

The accused has been identified as Zulfikar alias Zulla, a resident of Azeez Sait Nagar in city. He had installed a name board 'National Anti-Corruption Tiger State President' and had also affixed a sticker of a tiger to the Mahindra XUV (KA-23-N-1314).

Udayagiri Police, who intercepted the vehicle yesterday morning on Udayagiri Main Road, arrested Zulfikar and seized the car. The accused was later released on Station Bail.

Udayagiri Inspector Poonacha, who has registered a case under Section 3, 5 of The Emblem and Names Act 1950, is investigating.

Cluster Containment Zone

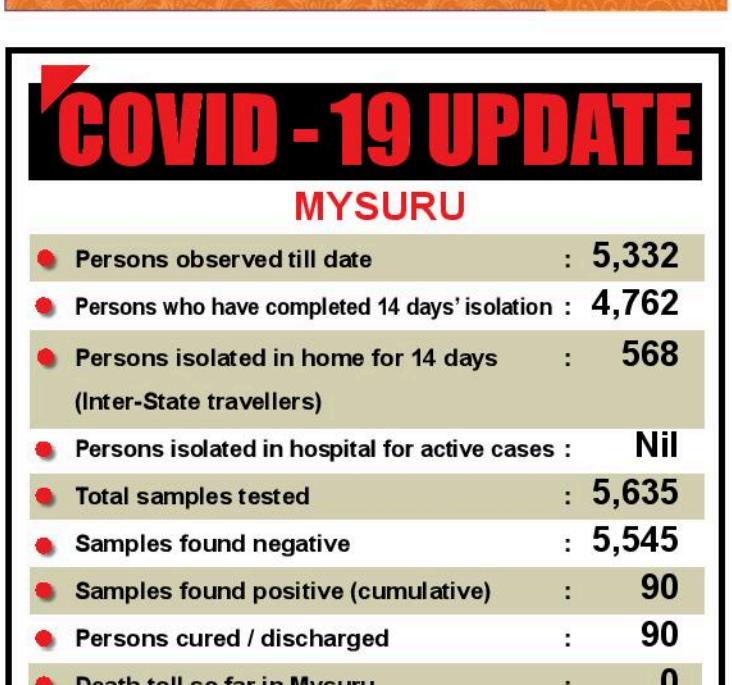
(Continued from page 1)

Sale has been allowed in shopping complexes where there are essential commodities and the functioning of medical shops has been permitted. The rest of the shops have to remain closed. Shops selling essential commodities, shopping complexes, hardware, cement and iron-and-steel shops that are necessary for construction industry have been permitted to open from 7 am to 5 pm.

No permission for gold stores, garment outlets

There is no permission to open garments, textile shops and jewellery units. A separate relaxation order will be issued for this, the DC's order stated. All private companies and firms can operate with 33 percent staff except in containment zones where such firms will remain shut until further orders. All private firm and industry employees must mandatorily carry identity cards issued at their workplaces.

There is no permission to operate taxis, bus service and autorickshaw service. Also, permission has been denied to spas, salons and beauty parlours, malls and gymnasiums to operate. All restrictions currently imposed on National Highways passing through Nanjangud will continue, the DC's order said.



COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	5,332
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	4,762
Persons isolated in home for 14 days (Inter-State travellers)	:	568
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	Nil
Total samples tested	:	5,635
Samples found negative	:	5,545
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	90
Persons cured / discharged	:	90
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	49
Persons cured / discharged	:	19
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	1,032
Persons cured / discharged	:	476
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	35
Total active cases in India	:	51,401
Persons cured / discharged	:	27,919
Death toll so far in India	:	2,649

(Note: Figures till 5 pm)

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4. Contact lenses
5. Protective glass for Covid 19.
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Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520/2496521/2496523/ 2496526/2496527/2496528 Fax: 0821-2496525, 2496530. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.